

THE LION'S ROAR



JANUARY 2016

“UTMOST OF OUR ABILITY”



51st ESB: Operation
Inherent Resolve

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EMC2
TAKES FLIGHT

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BRIGADE DETERMINES
BEST WARRIORS

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35TH SIGNAL BRIGADE COMMAND TEAM

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Brigade Commander

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Command team message



Through my travels as the command sergeant major of this extraordinary brigade, I have been amazed at the level of professionalism and pride displayed by Soldiers I've come in contact with.

The Lion's Roar focuses on some of the significant accomplishments and actions of those Soldiers and what they were able to accomplish because of their professionalism and pride in their organization. However, I believe it is impossible to truly encompass in text all of the exceptional performances, extraordinary successes, and outstanding personnel we have in our brigade.

It is our Soldiers and leaders that make our brigade, the Army, and our country so great and successful. As the senior enlisted advisor within the brigade, I am pleased with the effort of leaders in establishing an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and growing as an organization.

Being a leader is often like piecing together a complex Rubik's Cube; it requires us to systematically unify the pieces of each side to completion before reaching overall

mission accomplishment. For some it can be a natural skill, but for others it can require research, patience and extended effort.

In order to succeed as a team, we must be dedicated to finding the right method that enables us to put all of our pieces in the correct place to reach unified victory.

I am thankful we have Soldiers progressing in their Army career as a result of leaders setting the right atmosphere and culture that allows them to be the best they can be as Soldiers!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the

families that support their Soldiers day in and day out as they work tirelessly to complete their specific mission regardless of the location.

I have no doubt going forward that the entire brigade team will continue to perform their wartime mission with great success and continue the proud tradition of "THE Lion Brigade"!!

*L7, Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Jordan
Brigade command sergeant major
35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical)*



Although I've been in your ranks since June, this is my first opportunity to talk to you through the pages of the Lion's Roar.

Let me first say, I have been INCREDIBLY impressed by the professionalism, competence and teamwork of "THE Lion Brigade". Being a Soldier is truly a team sport - we count on each other, sometimes with our lives, and that trust is the bedrock of our profession.

Similarly, many of us are on important teams outside

the military - for instance, our families. I'd like to take a moment and thank all the families out there supporting your Soldier; Soldiers are the strength of the Army, and you, the families, are the strength of the Soldiers.

This edition will largely focus, as it should, on the distinguished accomplishments of the brigade's units and service members. Ultimately the Army is people focused- we don't "man the equipment," we instead "equip the Soldier."

I expect you will get a better sense of some of the great men and women serving in our formation and I wish there were more pages to extol many more of the accomplishments. I truly don't envy the public affairs team as they whittle down the stories to fit within this edition.

And while reflecting on everything that went right is important, perhaps equally meaningful is focusing on where we need to improve as we collectively look to the future.

It is kind of fitting, with a new year upon us that we focus on resolutions. Some of my resolutions for this new year are to focus on leader development, increase readiness across all our systems, signal and otherwise and to continually focus on the health and welfare of the force.

I also have some personal goals and areas I would like to do some self-development. My challenge to you all is to put your energy into the areas that need improvement, whether that is within your military team or in your personal life.

Lastly, I'd like to mention the people we currently have deployed their service and stellar representation of us all who wear the Lion patch is something I am personally thankful for, and I wish them a safe return in the months ahead.

Utmost of our Ability!!

*L6, Col. Charles P. Daly
Brigade commander
35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical)*

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Enable success

Outgoing 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Commander Col. Robert L. Edmonson II, center, passes the brigade colors to Lt. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, left, 18th Airborne Corps commander, at Barton Field, Fort Gordon, Ga., June 26, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs)



BRIGADE CHANGES COMMAND

By Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Cohen, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs

Hundreds of Soldiers, family members and supporters of the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) braved the summer heat to bear witness to the brigade's change of command on Barton Field, June 26, 2015.

The 35th TTSB change of command celebrated the tenure of Col. Robert L. Edmonson II, the departing brigade commander, and welcomed the incoming commander Col. Charles P. Daly.

During his two years as the brigade commander, Edmonson led elements of the brigade through six deployments, from small group to battalion in size, in support of worldwide missions.

"The troopers that stand before you are the most rapid deployable signal troopers in 18th Airborne Corps, (U.S. Forces Command), and perhaps even the United States Army," said Edmonson in his speech at the ceremony. "At this very moment members of the 'Lion Brigade' are deployed to Southwest Asia, South

America, while also providing world class expeditionary communications in support of multiple commandant commanders as well as the global response force."

At the time of his departure, Edmonson commanded more than 2,200 Soldiers in four battalions spanning three different states and four installations across the country.

"The 35th Signal Brigade allows tactical, operational and strategic leaders to turn network access into national instruments of power," said Edmonson a native of Willingboro, New Jersey. "Our outstanding men and women enable commanders to out think their adversaries, out pace their adversaries, out perform their adversaries, and if that's not enough, destroy our adversaries. Freedom begins and ends with the ability to communicate intent."

Much of Edmonson's command was spent traveling to each installation and advocating for the brigade, which often kept him away from his wife Ellen and son's Robert III and Alexander.

“Ellen, it’s your love and commitment to our family that allows me to go to work each day,” said Edmonson to his wife during his speech. “And as I’ve publically stated before, I believe that the Army’s kept me around, not so much for what I bring to the troopers, as it is what you bring to the families. I admire the way that you interact with spouses and (Family Readiness Group) leaders; passing along your lessons learned to the next generation. Our Army is stronger today because of you.”

In a private ceremony before the change of command, the Edmonson family was presented with awards for their significant contributions to the 35th TTSB family by both Lt. Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, the 18th Airborne Corps commander, and Brig. Gen. John W. Baker, 7th Signal Command (Theater) commander.

“You’ll hear about that this 35th Signal Brigade has done, all of them required leadership and as much as the Soldiers do the hard work it requires a leader to direct what hard work is going to be done and provide that purpose, direction and motivation to get the hard work done. That’s what this leadership team has done,” said Townsend about the Edmonson family during the award presentation.

Edmonson attributed much of his success as a commander to the support of his family and friends and those he has served alongside for his past 25 years of service.

“Regardless of how accomplished one thinks they are, leaders should remain humble, humble enough to accept the fact that we could not have succeeded without the support and sacrifice of others,” said Edmonson.

Following his command of the 35th TTSB, Edmonson goes to the Pentagon to work as the executive officer for the Army Chief Information Officer/G6 and leaves the command of the 35th TTSB to Daly.

“Serving in the 18th Airborne Corps and in this great brigade is very humbling, and even more so as I follow Rob Edmonson,” said Daly, native of Emerson, New Jersey, in his speech. “Rob, thank you and Ellen for your graciousness, transparency and exemplary leadership. I am honored to follow in your footsteps.”

In his speech Edmonson added that he was confident that Daly who came to Fort Gordon after attending the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and his wife Cathy and children Sarah and Matthew, are a perfect addition to the Lion Brigade command team and family.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, I’m thankful to have been graced with the opportunity to command the 35th Signal Brigade. I will never forget that or forget you. Command is an honor; an honor that I’m humbled to have enjoyed,” said Edmonson, signing off as “Lion 6” and as the commander of 35th TTSB. ■

COMMANDER'S QUESTION & ANSWER

COL. CHARLES P. DALY SHARES VISION

Q: What are your top priorities for the brigade?

A: Certainly number one is readiness. Readiness spans from training to taking care of our Soldiers; ensuring they are ready and that they have everything they need. Also taking care of their families. Number two is Soldier development—giving our Soldiers opportunities to grow. My focus is embedding leadership development into our operational environment.

Q: What are some goals you would like to achieve while in command?

A: What I want for the command is an expeditionary mindset, so that Soldiers in our formations are ready for any mission, any time, any place. When you talk about that it’s easy to say but hard to do because it spans the entire brigade.

Q: What are some things you would like Soldiers to know about you?

A: My personal leadership style is that the Soldier is the most important weapon system that we have. We don’t man the equipment, we equip our men and women. Every Soldier deserves good leadership, to know that their health and welfare is being looked after, and that they are being trained really hard and realistically. I’m very frugal; I can stretch a buck with the best of them. My hobbies are running and golf.

Q: What are your thoughts about the brigade?

The 35th was my first choice of command. It’s a brigade well known for its excellence. It’s been very energizing and refreshing to see the quality of people we have here in the brigade and to see how well we’ve done with the incredible amount of missions we have on a day-to-day basis.

Q: What kind of missions do you see in the future?

A: I think based on the Army operating concept and what the Army is saying that the future operating environment looks like, it’s going to be expeditionary. We will have missions come down for us to deploy Soldiers with short notice and we won’t know right away when or where. We will also continue to have deployments where we know those details well in advance.

Enable success

MISSION T

Soldiers of C Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) receive their combat patch in a ceremony in Baghdad May 30, 2015.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Berghammer, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



O IRAQ

51st ESB supports OIR

By Capt. Joshua S. Liley, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

In late December 2014, Soldiers of C Company, 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) were given an order to deploy and provide communications support to the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command-Iraq, known as "CJFLCC-I", in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Baghdad.

By the end of January 2015, the company was on the ground in Kuwait and preparing for onward movement into Iraq. The mission quickly evolved.

In addition to providing Warfighter Information Network-Tactical support to the task force commanders, C Company was called upon to run cable and fiber to establish a permanent CJFLCC-I Headquarters in Iraq and assist in transitioning units from the tactical network onto the strategic network by connecting the technical control facilities to the local fiber backbone.

The Soldier's decisive effort was to provide WIN-T support to each of the Building Partner Capacity, or "BPC, sites across Iraq in order to provide the task force commanders with the ability to conduct mission command.

The teams from C Co. took over operations from the 35th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) and added multiple capabilities including the Battlefield Information Collection-Exploitation System and line of sight connectivity using Harris 7800W systems.

The Soldiers of 1st Platoon,

led by 1st Lt. Tavarris J. Andrews and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy A. Judd, worked in conjunction with the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force to provide the first Unmanned Aerial Vehicle feeds from Grey Eagle drones.

"Learning how to operate other communication systems was awesome," said Pvt. Christopher A. Monroe a Soldier in C Co. 51st ESB who was apart of the deployment and who added that he enjoyed learning about the new equipment.

These feeds gave commanders the ability to coordinate and authorize deadly strikes against enemy forces.

Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, led by 1st Lt. Peter W. Asmuth and Sgt. 1st Class Larry L. Jones, engineered and installed the first two 7800W LOS links in theater and provided voice and data capabilities to an additional 150 users that did not previously have access.

The extended services 2nd Platoon provided enabled critical medical, reconnaissance and logistical air missions for CJFLCC-I every day. Even with the other capabilities that C Co. provided, the mission focus moved to transitioning users over to the strategic network.

In summing up his experience Asmuth said, "It was a great experience learning how to lead in uncertain circumstances where adapting to rapid changes and mission requirements, with little support, was essential."

This is where the C Co. cable teams came in. These Soldiers

installed more than 34,000 feet of category five and category six cables and fiber optic cables extending the Southwest Asia, also called "SWA", network to the new CJFLCC-I headquarters and laying the foundation to extend SWA to each of the BPC sites.

In the process, gave the CJFLCC-I commander a faster, more reliable network, and have saved the government more than \$250,000 in contract costs by reusing materials left behind at the end of Operation New Dawn and negating the need for additional labor.

For their efforts, the CJFLCC-I Commander, Maj. Gen. Paul Funk, commander of CJFLCC-I and 1st Infantry Division, recognized the Soldiers of C Co. during an award ceremony and presented them with army achievement medals.

Throughout the deployment, C Co. received praise for the unparalleled level of communications support that they provided.

Maj. Jeremy J. Bechtel of the Australian Army, the CJFLCC-I coalition communications planner, said in an email, "It is clear that the Soldiers from C, 51st are providing a level of customer service and support that nobody else can match."

In November, after more than nine months of providing communications support to, C Co. redeployed to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, where they were met by family, friends, and members of the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical).

On short notice, C Co., deployed, provided capabilities for mission command to task force commanders throughout Iraq, integrated the coalition network, and extended the SWA network to remote locations.

In the process, they have gained a reputation as disciplined, hardworking and technically competent Soldiers that are able to overcome challenges to accomplish future missions. ■

Signal aid for

GLOBAL RESPONSE FORCE

A large, stylized globe is the central focus, showing continents in white against a grey background. The globe is partially obscured by the large text. At the bottom left, there is a black silhouette of a signal tower or antenna structure.

50th ESB Soldiers support JRTC

By 1st Lt. Aaron M. Wierschke and Sgt. 1st Class Andrew C. Himes, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

The ping of hammers hitting grounding stakes rang out across the tactical operations center from April 1 to May 7, 2015 at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Soldiers of A Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) had finished a midnight ground assault convoy and arrived onsite in time to set up their systems, which proved to be just the start of many realistic training scenarios faced while the team was at the Joint Readiness Training Center for rotation 15-06.

Once on site, the Soldiers of Joint Network Node team 5710 got to work setting up their system and providing service to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division tactical operations center or "TOC".

The Soldiers of the JNN team were not the only ones from A Co. in the fight, as the entire company was called to support 1st BCT, 82nd Airborne Division at the JRTC rotation.

This rotation included units from across the Global Response Force, a ready and waiting quick response force for the United States to use in case of emergency.

The training rotation gave all those involved the opportunity to not only practice their skills against a difficult and realistic opposing force, but also allowed them to better prepare for rapid action for any mission the GRF is called upon.

The spirit of GRF embodies what it means to be expeditionary. In just over an hour's time the JNN was up and providing services, which set a new record set up time for that JNN team.

"It is a good setting for training, especially for those coming from (Advanced Individual Training) to learn their jobs efficiently and in the right circumstances," said Spc. Jaquez Davis, JNN team chief, A Co., about his experience at JRTC.

Soldiers of A Co. also provided non-signal support to the brigade. The mechanics worked on vehicles and provided direct support to 1st BCT, 82nd Airborne Division, the 127th Engineer Battalion and the 307th Brigade Support Battalion during the rotation.

They focused on their mission of keeping equipment ready and in working order regardless of the customer, fixing anything from deployable rapid assembly shelters to light medium tactical vehicles.

This is the mindset of the expeditionary and Global Response Force; work together in any situation, with any additional unit, in any location to accomplish the mission.



Joint Network Node operators of A Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) receive coins and recognition while providing signal support to Joint Readiness Training Center rotation 15-06 at Fort Polk, Louisiana April 22, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Peter F. Erickson, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

Enable success

Soldiers of A Co. not only provided support to conventional forces, but also provided Command Post Node 57113 to the 5th Special Operations Task Force. Soldiers of A Co. were there to provide the link for SF teams to communicate to the conventional combatant commanders.

Throughout the rotation, A Co. and the 5th SOTF worked diligently on the interoperability between the regular Army signal assets and the SF signal community.

While working with the 5th SOTF Signal warrant officer, the team created a plan to better integrate the two networks under a shared common operating picture, thus furthering the capabilities of both conventional and SF signal networks.

The JRTC rotation made Soldiers of A Co. better prepared to engineer, install, operate, maintain and defend their network for any customer, anywhere in the world. The exercise provided them the opportunity to hone the skills needed to support the GRF mission. ■



Sgt. Christopher Taylor II, Command Post Node team chief of A Company, teaches Spc. Cody Lomas and Spc. Demetry Geddie, CPN operators all with 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), how to troubleshoot the CPN at Fort Polk, La., April 21, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Peter F. Erickson, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Satellite Transportable Terminals and Joint Network Nodes of A Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) are set up to support the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, tactical operations center during the operation order process of Joint Readiness Training Center rotation 15-06 on April 17, 2015 at Fort Polk, La. (Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron M. Wierschke, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



COMPREHENSIVE SOLDIER FITNESS

STRONG MINDS ★ STRONG BODIES



**35th Signal Brigade
Master Resilience Trainer
SFC CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS
(706) 791-3519**



Most of us instinctively focus on the negative, this is known as the negativity bias. Through the use of the Resiliency Skill—Hunt the Good Stuff, we learn to counter the negativity bias and build the MRT competency of Optimism. The skill “Hunt the Good Stuff” requires us to think of three good things that happened to us during the course of a day and then write it down daily in a journal.

Next, reflect on why each thing happened, what each good thing means to you, what you can do tomorrow to enable more of that good thing, and what ways you or others contribute to this good thing. Countering the negativity bias will enable you to not only sleep better and sustain better relationships, it will also make you a more productive member of this institution known as the USARMY.

Change starts within and the only thing that we can control is ourselves. If we dig deep enough, each of us can find some good in our daily life. Until next time, remain resilient and continue hunting the good stuff and remember there is light at the end of the tunnel.

MORE THAN A MISSION

■ Signal Soldiers go above providing communications in El Salvador, as they aid in making lives better beyond the horizon ■

*By 1st Lt. Mary R. Meidenbauer,
50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

Missions within the 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) can often fall under a common theme. In those missions, small teams generally deploy with their assigned equipment in order to support units conducting training exercises or communications exercises, and often within the borders of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. But when a major humanitarian effort calls on a team for assistance, the daily grind transforms into an entirely different type of mission.

Soldiers of the 50th ESB were a part of a team on the humanitarian mission called Beyond the Horizon, held in El Salvador, from March 13 to June 21, 2015. Beyond the Horizon is a humanitarian assistance exercise sponsored by the United States Southern Command, lasting for several months throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The program provides construction for schools and medical assistance to partner nations, and offers many Soldiers the opportunity to work and train with the nationals, as well as provide services to their

communities. During 2015, the exercise was conducted in El Salvador, however, next year the exercise will be held in Guatemala.

According to Sgt. Zephyr Klemke, a satellite communications team chief from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 50th ESB and the phoenix team leader for the BTH mission, the 50th ESB team primarily provided communication support for the 327th Engineer Battalion in El Salvador, which was building schools for the local community.

Additionally, their medical unit was providing care and free optometry to the locals. The 50th ESB team maintained an X Band Phoenix as well as a Single Shelter Switch in order to support the 327th EN BN.

After the departure of the team a Broadband Global Area Network called "BGAN700", which became the primary source of communication, replaced the Phoenix.

"The BGAN700 is a tele-engineering video conference system, which functions similar to our own assemblages in terms of data, voice and video communications," said Klemke. "They can broadcast a live Internet Protocol video feed through a video camera. I gave a class on the



Salvadoran children play outside a makeshift learning center. Construction of a new school began on March 28, 2015 as part of Beyond the Horizon 2015 in El Salvador. (Photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Stanis, 304th Public Affairs Detachment)



Soldiers of C Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) load their equipment into a C-17 at Ilopango Military Air Base, El Salvador in June 2015. (Photo by Sgt. Zephyr Klemke, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Soldiers of C Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) pose for a photo in front of a C-17 at Ilopango Military Air Base, El Salvador in June 2015. (Photo by Sgt. Zephyr Klemke, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

BGAN700 to the 327th Engineer Battalion Soldiers.”

The 50th ESB Soldiers were restricted to the post, Commando de ingenieros de las fuerzas armadas CIFA, or the Command of Combat Engineers, for the most part, largely due to concerns about dangers in the area.

However, they still found time to play soccer with the locals, as well as participate in weekly cookouts that the Salvadorans hosted for the Soldiers.

At the cookouts, the Salvadorans crafted many local dishes for Soldiers, to include papusa, a tortilla stuffed with refried beans and cheese, as well as steak and chicken cooked in traditional marinades.

Generally the Soldiers were eating military issued meals, and Klemke noted that they were very appreciative of the variety that the cookouts added to their routine.

A wide range of service members from various militaries were present at CIFA, showing the combined international effort devoted to this particular mission. There were Canadian, Brazilian, Chilean, Honduran, and Ecuadorian soldiers, as well as U.S. Airmen, Marines, and Army Soldiers, all assisting in building schools for local children. Although the 50th ESB Soldiers did not often interact with the international soldiers, they were not short of opportunities to explore the culture into which they were immersed.

Their noncommissioned officer in charge, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Clark, said that he ensured that every Soldier got the chance to take a cultural awareness trip in which they visited a nearby inactive volcano, ate at local restaurants and toured the Mayan ruins. Due to careful planning of iterations, the teams were able to maintain

their equipment via rotations, and every Soldier was able to tour.

“Everyone was excited to be part of a humanitarian mission, instead of just supporting training missions. It made everybody want to do better, considering we were affecting a third world country,” said Klemke.

Clark said the team didn’t treat the mission different than other missions, but the team was excited to do something a little different for a change.

“They’re professionals, and they perform at top notch level no matter what the mission is,” said Clark when asked about how the mission goals influenced his Soldiers. “But it absolutely affected morale, and the excitement of the team. I think the guys could feel the impact they were having on that country.” ■



A Salvadoran child watches the construction of a new school house, a part of Beyond the Horizon, in El Salvador May 31, 2015. (Photo by Sgt. Rigo Cisneros, 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Enable success

Signal takes flight with

EMC2

Soldiers load a C-17 during an exercise that helped field the Enroute Mission Command Capability, or "EMC2" communications system which provides real-time situational awareness in flight, at Fort Bragg, N.C. May 27, 2015. (Photo by Amy Walker, Program Executive Office Command Control Communications-Tactical)

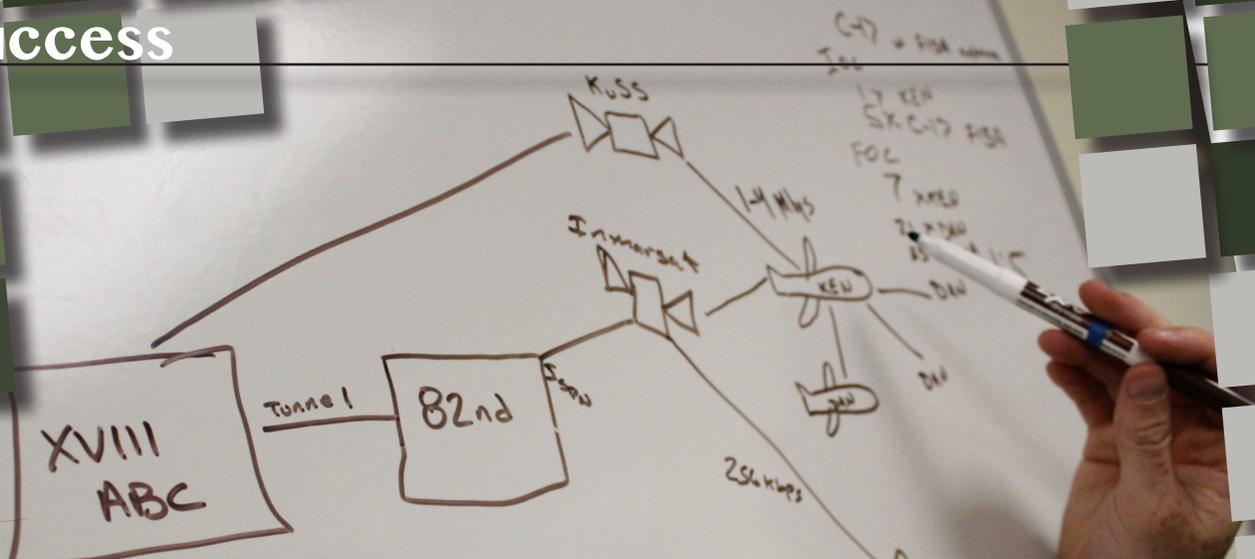


“ Basically, it’s like having their office on an airplane. ”

-LT Laquet

*By 2nd Lt. Katherine Linman,
50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

Soldiers of the 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) take their signal airborne with the Enroute Mission Command Capability, or "EMC2" communications system. The system meets a top 18th Airborne Corps objective and brings a new and robust communication capability to the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) and to the fight.



Capt. Daniel Conway, C Company, company commander for C Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) explains Enroute Mission Command Capability to his leaders at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 27, 2015. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Katherine Linman, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Pfc. Tamiesha Q. Scriven, information technology specialist, C Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) verify services on the Key Leader Engagement Node of the Enroute Mission Command package on an Air Force C-17 troop carrier at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 13, 2015. (Photo by Amy Walker, Program Executive Office Command Control Communications-Tactical)

The Enroute Mission Command Capability, or EMC2, is one of 18th Airborne Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend's top mission priorities mentioned in his commanders huddle at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, held May 4, 2015.

The success of that key focus now relies heavily on the expertise of the Soldiers of C Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary).

The EMC2 provides the capability for commanders on C-17 military transport aircraft to communicate while in flight with one another and with forces on the ground, said 1st Lt. Michael Laquet, the officer in charge of the EMC2 team, C Co., 50th ESB.

Without EMC2, the commander would be in a communication blackout while in flight, he added. The system provides commanders access to many services, such as video teleconferencing, access to the 82nd Airborne Division SharePoint portal, Enterprise email, Secure Internet Protocol Routing voice and mission command services like Command Post of the Future.

"Basically, it's like having their office on an airplane," Laquet said.

Soldiers of C Co. assumed responsibility of EMC2 May 1, 2015 from the 82nd Airborne Division, Laquet said.

Laquet said the 16-Soldier team trained heavily with the 82nd Airborne Division team prior to taking charge of the mission.

The EMC2 consists of several pieces of equipment, Laquet said. The unit was given a package comprised of a Key Leader Engagement Node, known as a KEN, and five Secure Enroute Communications Packages



Lt. Michael Laquet, 2nd platoon leader, C Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) secures a cable on the Key Leader Engagement Node training cart at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 27, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Katherine Linman, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

(Improved), called SECOMP (I) nodes, he said. Laquet added the unit will test Dependent Air Nodes, DANs, to replace the SECOMP (I) nodes in the future.

The SEMCOMP (I) node pulls its own data where a DAN pulls data via the KEN on a C-17 equipped with a FISA antenna.

Cpl. Derick Peterson, an operator of the EMC2 equipment, worked with the support personnel from Project Manager, Warrior Integrated Networking Technology, known as PM WIN-T, to reconfigure four SECOMP (I) nodes to operate like DANs.

This allowed the newly constructed DANs to pull the same services as the KEN, while reducing the weight of the node. Once PM WIN-T fields the unit DANs designed for the network, they will replace the Soldier-constructed DANs.

In addition to the training conducted with the 82nd Airborne Division, the C Co. team was able to shadow Soldiers of the 75th Ranger Regiment who have the same mission.

Laquet said the best training has come from the use of the ViaSat C-17 pre-mission training system. The training cart allows the Soldiers direct access to a commercial satellite called the Ku-satellite spread spectrum whenever the team needs to train without needing to physically be on a C-17.

“Access like this allows us to leverage training time much more effectively,” Laquet said. “We can test the equipment immediately after making adjustments.”

Peterson said the training cart has given him more time to learn the systems, which in turn will help him troubleshoot any issues in the air.

With the additional responsibility of EMC2, the Soldiers of C Co. must balance their new mission with the current mission of a typical signal platoon, which includes

supporting units through the use of two Command Post Nodes, a Single Switch Shelter, and two Troposcatter systems, said Capt. Daniel Conway, commander, C Co.

The new task of EMC2 affects the speed at which the teams can deploy the two CPNs, he said. Conway said this is because the Soldiers typically assigned

to the CPN teams are now also assigned to EMC2. The focus for those Soldiers is training on and executing the EMC2 mission because they are a part of the Global Response Force.

Since assuming the EMC2 mission, Soldiers of C Co. have supported 10 missions. And in early July, the team demonstrated the capabilities to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter. Carter came to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to gain a better understanding of Global Response Force operations.

The visit included observing airborne operations by members of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne

“Access like this allows us to leverage training time much more effectively.”

-LT Laquet

Division. On the way to Sicily Drop Zone, Carter was briefed by Laquet on the EMC2 system, while Townsend demonstrated multiple services made available to Airborne Commanders by the KEN.

Following the jump, Secretary Carter presented the EMC2 team with coins as a token of his appreciation for their dedication and proficiency.

Building on the momentum of early July's highly successful demonstration for Carter, C Co.'s EMC2 team began preparations for their next mission, supporting Operation Dragon Spear.

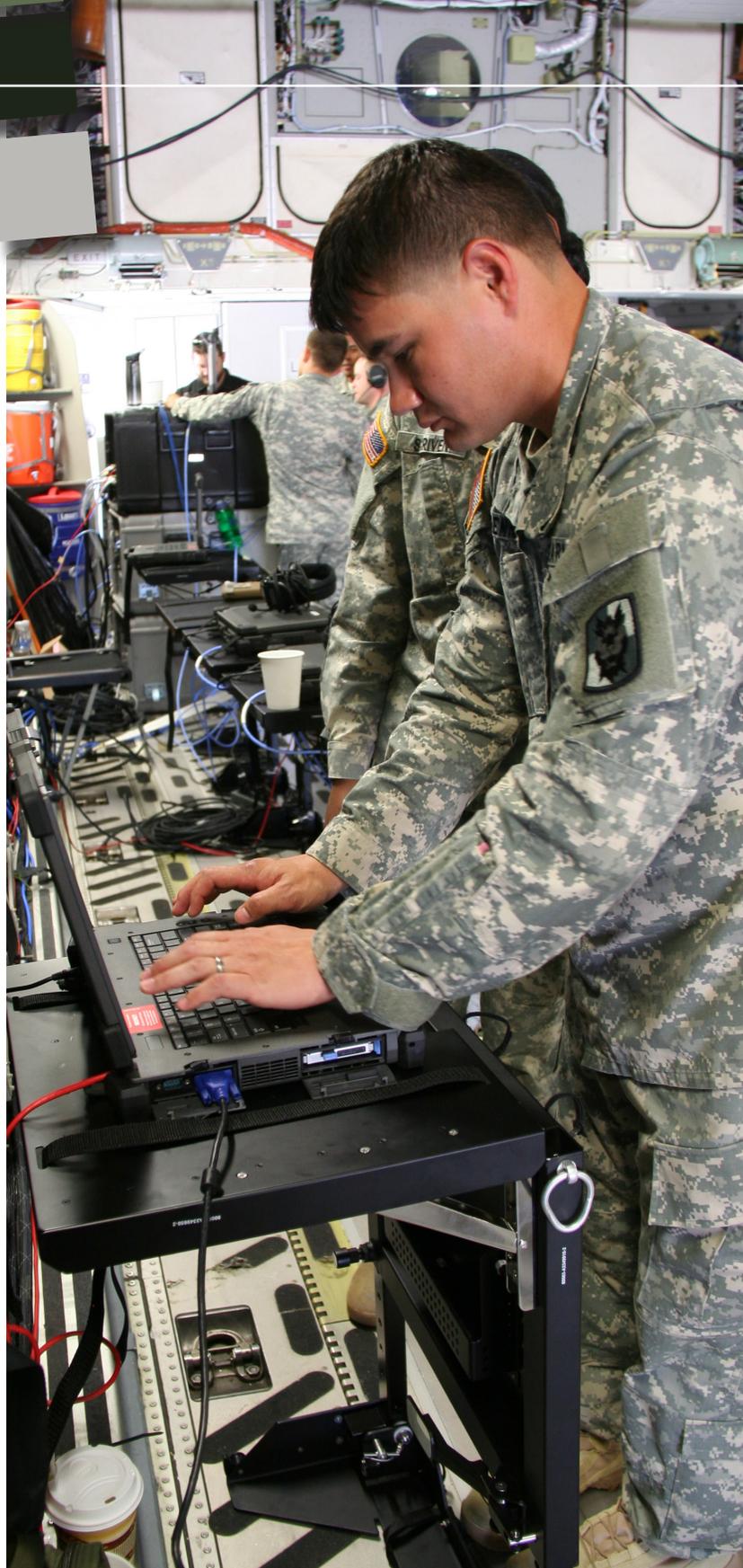
This exercise put 1,500 paratroopers of the GRF, 75th Ranger Regiment, and 10th Special Forces Group against the seasoned opposing forces of the National Training Center at March Air Reserve Base, near Riverside, California

Soldiers of 2-508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division participated in Ultimate Reach, the airborne portion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Operation Trident Juncture, demonstrating an ambitious commitment to joint warfare.

More than 500 American paratroopers jumped into Spain on Nov. 4, 2015 with Spanish counterparts in a successful airborne operation. EMC2 provided reliable communications for two transatlantic flights totaling 20 hours, with multiple satellite transitions and aerial refueling operations with no degradation of service.

This allowed the 2-508th PIR leadership in both continents to maintain the same level of situational awareness. The mission provided the opportunity for the EMC2 to test the system while migrating from one spot beam on the satellite to another and transferring between three different satellites — crucial to ensuring communication continuity for flights to and from theater.

"The 50th Signal Battalion has always been an 18th Airborne Corps asset," Conway said. "Now, with EMC2, we are directly supporting the airborne task force commanders with to-the-minute accurate information, which better prepares them before exiting the plane." ■



Spc. Davion R. Johnson, transmission system operator and maintainer, C Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) verifies services on the Key Leader Engagement Node of the Enroute Mission Command package on an Air Force C-17 troop carrier at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 13, 2015. (Photo by Amy Walker, Program Executive Office Command Control Communications-Tactical)



RETENTION



Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier... A Soldier for Life!

Now that we are rolling into the Fiscal Year 2016, we as Team 35th must continue to remain engaged in keeping Soldiers in boots.

Leaders continue to engage your Soldiers and their families on their future endeavors with Team Army whether its Active Duty, United States Army Reserves or Army National Guard. Soldiers should continue to be forward thinkers by focusing on Assignments, Retraining, GT Improvement, Promotions, Civilian and Military Education, Special Programs (Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School, Drill Sergeant, Recruiting, Instructor, etc.) because everything you do today affects your future tomorrow.

Contact your servicing Career Counselor for assistance as we are here to encourage, provide guidance, and information to assist you and your family with your future endeavors.



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Soldiers of 67th ESB train at NTC

By 1st Lt. Clayton Mosley, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

Training at the National Training Center provided a unique opportunity not only for C Company, but all of 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary).

The NTC trip began on July 6, 2015 with the 30 personnel departing from Fort Gordon, Georgia to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for an overnight pit stop, and ending at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in California the next day.

The training provided a great experience because the Soldiers and leaders who went got to experience things outside of the ESB's normal mission set.

The personnel that went made a diverse group from all companies throughout the battalion, which gave the Soldiers and leaders a chance to build camaraderie outside of their companies.

The 67th ESB personnel essentially acted as a militia force from a foreign nation for the 10th Group Special Operations Forces Unit so their unit could come into an austere environment and train a less experienced force better trained.

Upon arrival at the MCLB, the Soldiers were given five days of classes from the 10th Group Special Operations Forces Unit. The

classes were intended to prepare the Soldiers for the type of mission they would be conducting out in the desert for 28 days.

During the classes they also learned that the mission would be split up into two lanes, an East lane and a West lane, which separated the Soldiers for about four hours.

After the five days of classes all Soldiers pushed out to their respective sites and began to prepare for the mission.

The mission called for each lane to act as a militia force for their country who were wanting to rise up against their government, but did not have the training or capabilities to effectively do so, until the teams arrived for the 10th Group Special Operations Forces Unit.

The west lane consisted of 11 Soldiers and leaders who were paired with personnel from Fort Bragg. The west lane was specifically working with Special Forces Team 3-2 from the 10th Group Special Operations Forces Unit and was located high up in the mountains of the Mojave Desert. They spent about 20 of the 28 days located there before they were shuttled over to the East lane due to mission criteria.

Once they arrived to the east lane the stories began rattling off. The

Soldiers compared which lane had the more strenuous mission set.

The west lane was high up in the mountains while the east lane was in the middle of a dried up river bed with barren land for miles and miles.

The Soldiers and leaders consensus for the west lane was all the same. They had to deal with lots of flies since they were in the middle of a cow pasture; they had to lug their food up the side of a mountain because their camp was located at the top; they saw a couple of bears around their camp because it was not enclosed.

All these actions and hardships were important because it tested the mental toughness of the Soldiers and it also played into the roles of acting as a militia force because as militia they would have certain traditions that aren't regularly practiced.

The west lane went out on about five missions with team 3-2, where the mission criteria was to hit things such as oil pipelines, high-value individuals and bridges.

The missions required a lot of prep work by the militia leadership. The leadership would incorporate the American Military Operations Order standard as well as briefing the militia Soldiers off a sand table



Soldiers of 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) discuss a mission using a sand table built on the dried up river bed at the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Calif., July 27, 2015. (Photo by 1st Lt. Clayton Mosley, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

that was established by the Special Forces team that was helping train the militia.

The militia Soldiers would then rehearse the mission alongside the SOF team in preparation for the mission that night. At night fall, the hand chosen militia team would roll out in civilian vans with the SOF team and conduct actions on the targeted objective in order to disrupt operations within the militia's local government.

Mission success was usually the case since the militia and the SOF team put so much time and preparation into each mission.

The east lane consisted of the rest of the Fort Gordon personnel, which included 19 Soldiers. The east lane was a little less strenuous, but had its difficulties as well. Since it was located near a dried up river bed it was extremely hot with very little shade.

The sleeping arrangements included sleeping within a small fenced in area and using tarps as cover from the weather elements.

The biggest concern for the camp on the east lane was dehydration so a work rest cycle was established early on, which allowed Soldiers and leaders to remain hydrated and working hard.

The east lane worked with team 3-1 and went on a handful of missions as well, which included gas pipelines, HVIs and bridges. The East lane had a successful mission record of four and one, with the only mission failure coming on the first one for a gas pipeline.

The mission failure of the first mission came due to inexperience of the militia and the working relationship and trust with the SOF team on site.

Each mission after became more and more effective in time and manner.

When asked which lane was better Spc. Denarius Henry, acting as a squad leader in the militia, replied, "Well since I was at both lanes for a little bit, I would definitely say the east lane was better because it wasn't as hilly and

the flies were not as bad."

Overall, the NTC mission was a success and a tremendous learning opportunity for the personnel involved.

After conducting after action reviews with all the leadership involved, to include the 10th Group Special Operations Forces Unit, the response was very positive in what the Soldiers were able to provide to the SOF unit as signal Soldiers and leaders.

"The training we received overall was excellent and it was really cool to learn new things outside our normal (military occupational specialty), but I must say, the living conditions were really rough and did not make it easy on some days," said Spc. Tristan Lewis, acting as a squad member in the militia.

As a whole, the firsthand experience of carrying out infantry mission, as well as working with the SOF unit, expanded 67th ESB's knowledge on how some of America's elite conduct themselves and their missions. ■

Lion's character



Spc. Sheah Johnson, a food service specialist in C Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), prepares herb roasted chicken, roasted potatoes and asparagus for the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Chef of the Year competition Oct. 5, 2015 at Fort Gordon, Ga. (Photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs)

CHEF OF THE YEAR COMPETITION HEATS UP, DEFINES BEST

*By Sgt. Jonathan M. Casto,
63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

After a ferocious food fight with two other top competitors, Spc. Sheah Johnson emerged with the title of the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Chef of the Year for 2015. The competition was held at Fort Gordon, Georgia on October 5, 2015 among six food service specialists from across the entire 35th TTSB whom traveled from all over the country.

Johnson, a food service specialist assigned to C Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, used the high-pressure culinary competition some call “the Olympics of food service” to showcase her considerable chops in the kitchen by impressing the judges with a dish of herb-roasted chicken, red potatoes and asparagus.

The competition also included a formal board portion and was divided into two brackets, junior enlisted and noncommissioned officers. The review board consisted of five senior members from among the competitors’ peers and supervisors whom were well suited to ask revealing questions of the competitors’ knowledge and skills.

Competitors had one hour to prepare their best offering from the contents of a mystery basket that remained closed until the cooking time began. Once complete meals were judged by a panel of four culinary experts in categories including originality, appearance, texture, doneness and taste.

“I was nervous, a little neurotic, especially not knowing the ingredients and going up against higher-ranking cooks who had been doing it longer,” said Johnson who has two and a half years in the Army. “But I knew I was going to win. I was there to compete, so winning was the only option.”

Johnson, who was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for her



Spc. Sheah Johnson, a food service specialist in C Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), roasts and slices tomatoes as part of her winning dish in the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Chef of the Year competition Oct. 5, 2015 at Fort Gordon, Ga. (Photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs)

victory, is no stranger to success as she was also named the 2014 Fort Gordon, Georgia Installation Chef of the Year.

She was also recently selected as a member of the Fort Stewart Culinary Team after a grueling process competing against all chefs nominated for the team across the entire installation.

The Fort Stewart Culinary Team travels and competes with teams from other Army installations across the country.

“It’s just a rush, coming from being a private first class and not knowing anything, to winning these

competitions. It’s amazing,” Johnson said.

Johnson currently works at the Thunder Café Dining Facility, a position which, she says, “really helped with time management” before the competition. Her hobbies outside work include working out and, of course, cooking. She’s also a self-proclaimed movie buff but the food takes center stage.

“Cooking just takes me outside my head. It calms me down and makes the nerves go away. Maybe that’s how I won. Cooking keeps my mind busy and makes everything else a breeze,” she concluded. ■

WHY THEY SERVE

By Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Cohen, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs



Spc. Darlene J. Redfearn, a multichannel transmission operator and maintainer, A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), poses before reenlisting aboard a Blackhawk helicopter at Fort Jackson, S.C., Nov. 19, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Michael D. Gillett, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

Soaring through the sky in a helicopter is an experience that some people pay for.

For two A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) Soldiers the cost included years of their lives in continued service to their country.

Within a Blackhawk helicopter, hovering above Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Staff Sgt. Herbert C. Wilson and Spc. Darlene J. Redfearn, swore the oath of reenlistment, Nov. 19, 2015.

It was a price undoubtedly worth paying said Redfearn, who is a multichannel transmission operator and maintainer.

"I decided to reenlist because I like adventure," said Redfearn who added that she wanted to exemplify that desire for adventure through the method in which she reaffirmed her service. "I was really ecstatic for my first time being in a helicopter and still being a part of such an awesome organization."

Immediately before the reenlistment Soldiers of A Co., 67th ESB teamed with the Blackhawk crew for training on medical evacuation and sling load procedures.

"The Army obviously provides a level of stability for myself and my family," said Wilson, a nodal network systems operator-maintainer and platoon sergeant about why he chose to reenlist. "It has given me an opportunity to get great training

“ I was really ecstatic for my first time being on a helicopter and still being a part of such an awesome organization. ”
-SPC Redfearn

in various areas. It has also opened a door to a brotherhood that is unique to the Army. I've made friends for life in my time and look forward to making more.”

It was the first reenlistment for Redfearn and also her first time in a Blackhawk, but for Wilson it was his 5th and last reenlistment and not his first time in a Blackhawk.

Wilson recalled his flight from Baghdad to Balad in Iraq as the only passenger in a Blackhawk.

“For the first 30 minutes of the flight, as I looked out the window I would see either the ground or the sky, sometimes the undercarriage of the other helicopter, because the pilots were flying very sporty, but I never actually saw the horizon,” Wilson said. “When we stopped for fuel I opened the door and rolled out of the helicopter onto the tarmac. It took me 10 minutes to regain my composure to ensure I didn't lose my lunch. Afterwards I thought, some people pay good money for an experience like this.”

It was a desire for exciting experiences that helped influence both Wilson and Redfearn to continue their service, they said.

“It's always a different adventure every single day,” added Redfearn about her time in the Army. “In my three years of service, I've never gone through so much in my entire life. I've met different people and

done so many different things.”

Stability, adventure, camaraderie and a calling to serve are what Redfearn and Wilson shared as their primary incentives for staying in.

“Some of my fondest memories that have motivated me to stay in are primarily the Soldiers,” said Redfearn. “I see that I can make a difference in other people's eyes and that's what I like to do. That's one of the biggest reasons why I'm still a part of the Army, because I can make a difference. I like to help other people and I like to do something that I love.”

Both Wilson and Redfearn have relatives that are currently serving in the military or have past service.

Wilson's grandfather served in the Navy during World War II. His father retired from the Navy after 24 years and three out of my four of his siblings have enlisted and two of which are still serving.

Redfearn has two cousins who are currently serving.

“It's an opportunity that a lot of people would like to do and some people can't,” said Redfearn about serving in the military. “Even though we take it for granted at times. We are all very lucky to share this experience.”

Through her reenlistment Redfearn was granted the school option, which is a reenlistment incentive that allows her to be a fulltime student for six months, which she plans to use to work toward a medical degree that will assist her in achieving her goal of becoming a medical officer.

Redfearn and Wilson were both at very different stages in their careers and lives when faced with the option to reenlist but both chose the same path for similar reasons and they made it extra special by taking it to the sky in a Blackhawk. ■

A Blackhawk helicopter crew prepares for landing at Fort Jackson, S.C., Nov, 19 2015. (Photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs)



Lion's character

Sgt. Lucas Coffman, a multichannel transmission operator and maintainer in A Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) became the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Noncommissioned Officer of the Year 2015, at a ceremony at Fort Gordon, Ga., Sept. 25. (Illustration by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tacical) Public Affairs)



COMPETITION DEFINES WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME THE BEST

By Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Cohen, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs

Spc. Cynthia Krieger, a cable systems installer and maintainer, 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) became the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Soldier of the Year 2015, at a ceremony at Fort Gordon, Ga., Sept. 25. (Illustration by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tacical) Public Affairs)





Competitors of the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) 2015 Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition pose with their sponsors immediately following the ceremony that concluded the competition, at Fort Gordon, Ga., Sept. 25, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Public Affairs.

The best warriors of the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) were distinguished in a competition between the brigade's finest noncommissioned officers and Soldiers at Fort Gordon, Georgia Sept. 23-25, 2015.

Four NCOs and four Soldiers entered the competition but only Sgt. Lucas Coffman and Spc. Cynthia Krieger emerged victorious and earned the titles of the brigade's NCO and Soldier of 2015.

Winning the competition was the final accomplishment to define Coffman and Krieger as the brigade's best warriors of the year.

Motivation

It is not mandated by any Army regulation for Soldiers to attend NCO or Soldier of the month, quarter, or year competitions, which makes participation alone an above average achievement.

"I tell so many Soldiers the hardest part about it all is actually taking the first step and that if you believe in yourself and you set your mind to it and commit to performing your best, great things will happen," said Coffman.

Participation in a board is a decision Soldiers can't make without the influence and support of their leadership.

"My NCO is last year's brigade NCO of the year and he encouraged me to do a battalion level event to prepare myself for my E5 promotion board," said Coffman who is a multichannel transmission operator and maintainer in A Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary).

It's that leadership combined with the support of the organization that they represent that carries them past their competition and to the victory. Krieger is a cable systems installer and maintainer, 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary), and said that her NCO

motivated her decision to compete also.

"I feel like it keeps people from getting complacent and shows people that when you apply yourself great things can happen," said Coffman about his decision to begin the competition boards.

Experience is often the only reward for competing in boards, but it can be an invaluable one for those who walk away with improved leadership, warrior and life skills.

"It gives me more confidence in myself," said Krieger. "It just feels so good when you win something. It brings your morale up. It sets you apart from other people. People really look up to you."

Winning would've never been a possibility for

Krieger and Coffman if they hadn't found the motivation to try.

"I don't want to get older and wish I would've done this, I want to do it all now while I can so that when I get older I can reminisce about what I did do," Krieger said.

Path to success

A lot of dedication and preparation is necessary for each NCO and Soldier to remain competitive at boards and every win only brings a higher level of challenge.

"A lot of my time was spent studying while pacing around my kitchen," said Coffman about preparing for competition.

The competitors have to commit creeds, songs, doctrine and training programs, field manuals and regulations to memory. They must also ensure military records and uniforms are in check and that they are prepared to face the unexpected. Competitors are also not afforded the opportunity to see how they are

" I feel as though you are looked at as being the example for others to try to emulate and strive to become. "

-SGT Coffman

Lion's pride

standing compared to their peers, which proved to be a good motivator according to Coffman.

"The most challenging part was not knowing the warrior tasks and the mystery events and things like that," said Coffman. "You have to think on the fly, you have to be very flexible and very adaptive."

After surpassing their peers in knowledge while facing panels of senior leaders at the company and battalion levels, the top NCOs and Soldiers of all four battalions had to put their knowledge into practice for a chance at the brigade title.

"I was competing against people who were hard competition. I think that's what made it the best," said Krieger, who added that there were points of the competition where she wasn't sure if she was going to make it.

Neither Coffman nor Krieger said that they expected to hear their names announced at the brigade's NCO and Soldier of the Year award ceremony at Alexander Hall, Sept. 25, marking a successful end to their preparation.

Emerging on top

"Qualities of the brigade's NCO and Soldier of the year are determination, dedication, commitment and the willingness to sacrifice personal time to obtaining the title," said Sgt. 1st Class Dwight Mack, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 2015 brigade competition.

Success in the competition provides the Soldiers an

opportunity to catapult their career, Mack added.

"My unit was pleased with my win," said Coffman about how the 50th ESB responded when he returned as the brigade's NCO of the year. "I think most personnel here had high expectations of me to perform well. I'm just glad I could bring home a win for the battalion."

Coffman was the third NCO consecutively to earn the brigade title on the behalf of A Co., 50th ESB.

"I will help a Soldier any way possible. I plan on giving any future competitors the same guidance and help I was given," said Coffman who added that he received much of his training from the former winners.

Both Coffman and Krieger earned their prestige by distinguishing themselves above their peers by continuously demonstrating the highest degree of military knowledge and skills in competition.

"I feel as though you are looked at as being the example for others to try to emulate and strive to become," said Coffman about what it means to hold the title of NCO or Soldier of the year.

Krieger added that she plans to use her role to help coach and mentor any Soldiers training to compete in future boards.

"When the excellence you exhibit makes other people want more or to better themselves, not out of spite but out of admiration, that's when you've won," said Mack. "It's great when you have someone who can influence you to do bigger and better things just by leading by example." ■



Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Jordan, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical), brigade command sergeant major, awards both Sgt. Lucas Coffman, left photo, a multichannel transmission operator and maintainer in A Company, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) and Spc. Cynthia Krieger, right photo, a cable systems installer and maintainer, 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) statues for distinguishing themselves as the brigade's best warriors for the year 2015, at a ceremony at Fort Gordon, Ga., Sept. 25, 2015. (Photos by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tacical) Public Affairs)



For more information about the bystander intervention boxes contact your battalion SHARP representatives:

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35th SIG BDE SHARP
Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Daniel
(706) 791- 7038

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Mrs. Sandra Butler
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Fit to fight



Training goes airborne

■ A 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) priority training event combines basic and advanced skills in a realistic training environment to prepare Soldiers for missions that lay ahead. ■

*By 2nd Lt. Chad Evans,
67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

The day began dark and early for the members of A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) as they began their weeklong priority training event at training area 37A, Fort Gordon, Georgia from July 20-24, 2015.

During the week the Soldiers brushed up their skills on medical evacuation, “MEDEVAC”, and reacting to improvised explosive devices.

July marked the third month that the Soldiers had been on Initial Operation Capability for the Defense Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive Response Force mission for their battalion.

The day started early with a 4 a.m. alert for all Soldiers was initiated with a two hour recall, which is the standard of IOC.

As many A Co. Soldiers arrived sleepy eyed and drowsy, eager for training to ensue.

Many Soldiers have received Combat Life Saver training at one point in their Army career, but not all have been trained on the medical evacuation, casualty evacuation, and nine-line reporting procedures that are a core competency of all Soldiers.

The day began for those of 2nd Platoon at Regional Training Site-Medical where throughout the morning they received standardized classroom training from Cpl. Alexander Ulloa and Sgt. Kerwin Terry, A Co., 67th ESB team chiefs on MEDEVAC loading procedures, general first aid procedures and nine-line reporting procedures.

The classroom training finished with a practical exercise where members of 2nd Platoon were given a scenario and were required to fill out a nine-line MEDEVAC request and call in the report over the radio.

The afternoon for 2nd Platoon changed as the Soldiers transitioned to the hands-on portion of the training took place on a UH-1H training helicopter from RTS-Medical.

Soldiers of 2nd Platoon were split into five Command Post Node teams and one Joint Network Node squad; while on a simulated movement the team was engaged and a casualty assessed.

The team then needed to determine the details for the nine-line medical report to call up, and then load the casualty onto the UH-1H once the helicopter had landed. Artificial wounds and blood gave the Soldiers a chance to really put their skills to the test.

Soldiers of A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) load a casualty onto a UH-1H training helicopter at Regional Training Site-Medical, Fort Gordon, Georgia, July 22, 2015. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Chad Evans, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



“I wanted to add as much realism to the training as possible,” said Terry. “It’s not often that we can provide this type of training.”

The training for the 1st Platoon Soldiers was different with a focus on the Improvised Explosive Device.

Arriving at TA 37A, the Soldiers were given classroom instruction on all IED counter measures, identification and guidelines for encountering an IED during convoy operations.

With the help of expertise from Sgt. Peter Lusk, team chief, A Co., 67th ESB, and Sgt. Brian Wissel team chief, A Co., 67th ESB, the members of 1st Platoon became better prepared for the hands-on portion of the convoy operations IED training.

The rumble of the convoy echoed throughout the woods as Cpl. Alphonso Wooden, a team chief with A Co., 67th ESB, led his three-vehicle convoy down an unimproved trail, armed with intelligence that a possible IED was along their route.

Halfway to their objective, the lead vehicle heard a metallic click followed by the bellowing boom of a detonated IED simulator hitting the second vehicle of the convoy. Wooden immediately reacted and jumped into action, using the skills achieved through training, by cordoning off the area and assessing the casualties and damage from the simulated IED.

The event allowed Soldiers a chance to receive realistic and unique training experiences that allowed them to better sharpen their skills and to prepare them for whatever missions their future may hold. ■

Take-two

Soldiers of A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) conduct medical evacuation training again at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Nov. 19, 2015. (Photos by Capt. Lindsay D. Roman, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical), Public Affairs)



A Soldier assigned to Task Force First Round watches a fire whirl engulf a tree in the Colville National Forrest, Wash., Aug. 26, 2015. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Porch, 28th Public Affairs Detachment)

Soldiers in 63rd ESB learn new equipment, **fight fire with a SNAP**

By Spc. William Parrish, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)



Soldiers inspect the "SNAP terminal" before it is packed for shipment to Colville, Washington in response to the North Star wildfire on August 28, 2015 at Fort Stewart, Georgia. (Photo by Capt. Michael Gibson, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

To expand their capabilities to take on new missions, Soldiers of C Company, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) began fielding 10 non-secure and secure internet protocol router network access point terminals at Fort Stewart, Georgia, June 1 – June 29, 2015.

Soldiers of C Co. made swift use of the new capability when they deployed to Colville, Washington in late August 2015 in response to the North Star wildfire.

The new systems, referred to as "SNAP terminals", augment C Company as they support the unit mission to remain flexible and ready to meet new mission requirements in support of homeland defense.

"The system is easy to setup and expands the company's capabilities," said Spc. Marcus Smith, 2nd Platoon, C Co., 63rd ESB.

The entire SNAP system consists of five cases that are lightweight, mobile and able to be operated by as few as four trained Soldiers.

The system can provide services within an hour and a half. It provides much needed communication to first responders and coordinating staff responding to any incident within the United States.

"It is easy to deploy and teach to anyone that has no background as a transmissions specialist," said Sgt. Roland Randolph, 2nd Platoon, C Co., 63rd ESB.

The team arrived to the incident response command



Soldiers learn about configuration at Fort Stewart, Georgia, June 26, 2015. (Photo by Spc. William Parrish, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Soldiers work on a "SNAP terminal" at Fort Stewart, Georgia, June 26, 2015. (Photo by Spc. William Parrish, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

post in Washington and immediately began providing communication services to coordinators supporting the fire fighters' efforts to control the blaze. Part of the challenge was bringing the correct equipment to the effort while remaining small and mobile, ready to move and respond, at any time.

"The SNAP terminal is easier to setup, operate with a smaller team and has less equipment than other systems," said Spc. Jacob Williams, 1st Platoon, C Co., 63rd ESB.

The team successfully arrived on site and began providing internet services to incident responders 24 hours a day for the duration of the mission. Further, the team demonstrated the SNAP system's capability to flexibly relocate positions with minimal advance notice. After hard work and favorable weather conditions reduced the risk of further fire damage the team packed up and returned home to their families.

Since the successful demonstration of the SNAP capability and the technical proficiency of the C Co. operators the remaining teams have been called upon to provide services to other units in Albany, New York and San Antonio, Texas to better prepare response systems around the nation.

"We are excited to have this mission, and hopefully we won't be used too much, but if we are called upon, we will be ready," said Capt. Keith Christiansen, commander, C Co., 63rd ESB. ■

Soldiers of 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) prepare their site for a field training exercise at Fort Stewart, Ga., Oct. 26, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Cameron Arndt, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



BRIGADE CONNECTS FOR OPERATION NEW PRIDE

By Capt. Tyreese D. Brown,
67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

Making the signal

Early in the morning on Oct. 26, 2015 the first call was sent out to scramble the Soldiers of the 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary).

All units were alerted to begin Operation New Pride, the second of the bi-annual field training exercises of the 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical).

Tasked to stretch themselves across over 14 different training areas to include Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, and both Fort Benning and Fort Gordon in Georgia, the “Lightning Force” was ready to tackle a week’s worth of training to support the brigade in validating and testing their communications assemblages.

The first day of the exercise were devoted to movement to each companies’ respective training area and setting up their command posts.

During this time, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, A Company, C Company, and 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company deployed to the multiple training areas on Fort Gordon.

Meanwhile, Soldiers of B Company, in preparation for the

battalion’s Defense Chemical, Radiological, Biological, Nuclear, and Explosive Response Force mission, went through an installation Soldier Readiness Processing. Once B Co. completed their SRP, they conducted a tactical movement to their own respective training areas at Fort Jackson, Fort Benning, and Shaw AFB.

The battalion’s wide network spanned four military posts and ensured the brigade was able to test their regional connectivity in a realistic environment.

“The FTX gave us a good opportunity to sharpen the tools in our toolbox,” said Sgt. Yuri B. Moody, the battalion’s intelligence analyst.

Over the course of the FTX, several vehicles broke down. The 67th ESB maintenance team dispatched multiple recovery teams across the Fort Gordon training areas and Interstate 20 in response to the vehicle issues.

The recovery teams recovered six vehicles, executing their part of the mission. The last three days of the exercise focused on the battalion’s signal systems.

In support of the brigade’s mission, the battalion employed

over 30 signal systems to include Tropospheric Scatter Communications System and High Capacity Line Of Sight.

Meanwhile, 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company utilized the exercise as a way to train on their warrior tasks and drills. As the only U.S. Forces Command unit to ever utilize the Virtual Battlefield Simulator lab here on Fort Gordon, 518th TIN's land navigation training proved to be a helpful refresher for the Soldiers.

The company also conducted High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle egress assistance trainer in preparation for upcoming deployments.

The five companies within the battalion reached the culmination of the training exercise when they successfully setup links between all the contributing communications assemblages.

"We experienced a good amount of connection issues during the FTX, but it gave our teams a chance to improve their troubleshooting abilities and learn more about their systems," said 1st Lt. Jason T. Merten, platoon leader, B Co.

Once this requirement was reached, the brigade commander called for the end of the exercise. The companies then shut down, packed up and returned back to the motor pool and respective company areas.

The week was closed out after the Soldiers cleaned and secured their vehicles and equipment. Overall, the brigade exercise was a success as the battalion and companies were able to practice their signal tasks and validate their communications capabilities.

Even though the training was long and tiresome, it provided an excellent opportunity for everyone, from the most junior ranking Soldier to the highest leadership, to train and develop their skills as part of a theater tactical signal brigade. ■

A Command Post Node team from A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) assemble their 30 meter mast at Fort Gordon, Georgia, Oct. 26, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Michael Gillett, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Two Soldiers of A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) input frequencies into a high frequency radio at Fort Gordon, Georgia, Oct. 26, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Michael Gillett, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Soldiers from A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) decontaminate a vehicle at Fort Gordon, Georgia, Oct. 26, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Michael Gillett, A Company, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Soldiers of 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) setup a field training site at Fort Stewart, Ga., Oct. 26, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Cameron Arndt, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

TRAINING TO

INSPIRE

NEW PRIDE

By Sgt. 1st Class Christopher L. Young,
63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

Sharpening skills

Soldiers from 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) honed their skills during Operation New Pride, a brigade field training exercise Oct. 26-30, 2015.

The FTX required B Company to conduct a rehearsal Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise and tactical convoy out into the Fort Stewart, Georgia training area.

Soldiers of B Co. were tasked with establishing combat net radio, Voice-over-Internet Protocol telephone and Non-secure and Secure Internet Protocol Routing Network services in support of the 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) tactical operations center, or "TOC", and network operations cell.

B Co. utilized an AN/TTC-59A(V)3 Joint Network Node, two AN/TRC-190D(V)1 High Capacity Line of Sight, "HCLOS" systems, one AN/TRC-190D(V)3 HCLOS system, and one AN/TSC-156D Phoenix Tactical Satellite Communications Terminal for communication nationally between the four battalions of the 35 Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical).

Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, B Co. provided its HCLOS version three

transmission between the B Co. Headquarters and Headquarters and Headquarters Company Command Post Nodes in order to provide link redundancy to ensure reliable communications pertinent to the sustainment of company operations.

Lead by Sgt. Randall K. Smith Jr., CPN team chief, the team executed line of sight training, troubleshooting, and system steady-state operations continuously throughout the exercise.

The Soldiers of 1st Platoon, B Co. were tasked with operating the Phoenix terminal and bridging communications from the battalion TOC to the brigade TOC via JNN network switching and routing.

This allowed the battalion and the brigade to exercise its strategic signal capabilities by bridging together separate and diverse networks across large, theater-sized geographic areas.

This time dedicated to field training also afforded B Co. the opportunity to conduct tactical Warrior Task and Battle Drill training in order to maintain and reinforce the warfighting skills crucial to the overall mission of an expeditionary unit.

Lead by Sgt. Zeraan Hill, CPN team chief, all Soldiers had the

opportunity to drive under the cover of darkness while wearing their individual night vision equipment.

The Soldiers also trained signal site selection, signal site defense, operation of an entry control point, tactical discipline and situational awareness, and protections and procedures necessary for warfighting in a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive environment.

Overall, B Co. qualified 61 personnel on their individually assigned M16s with two Soldiers scoring the highest possible qualification rating of expert.

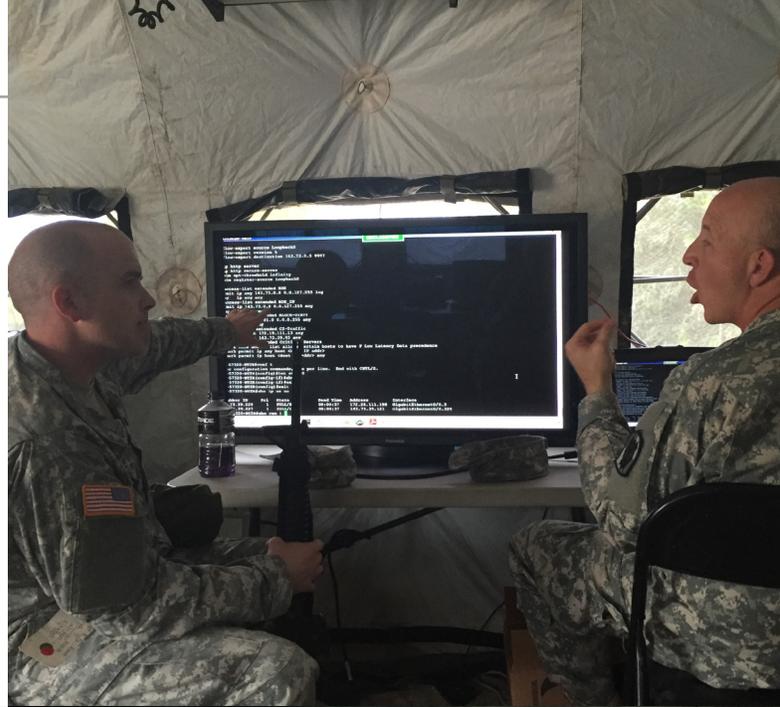
B Co. convoyed 35 vehicles, 11 generators, six Satellite Transportable Trailers and drove over 240 miles through the rough backroads and sweltering air of Fort Stewart, Georgia. B Co. operations and maintenance was also able to exercise its expeditionary function by conducting field repairs on three military vehicles and one civilian truck which broke down by the entry control point.

The company command post maintained awareness of all 79 personnel participating in the exercise, an additional 12 that deployed to Operation Vigilant Shield in Colorado in support of United States Northern Command.

Upon mission completion B Co. occupied over 104 hours in the field and conducted training across the entire spectrum of the company's Mission-Essential Task List. B Co. stands prepared to continue its real-world Command and Control CBRNE Response Element-A mission and its training for potential deployment in support of the people of the United States.

On Fort Stewart and within the footprint of the 3rd Infantry Division, the 18th Airborne Corps' armored force for decisive action, the 63rd ESB works to continue to build a new culture and strive towards achieving a new pride as it looks forward to future missions and exercises. ■

Soldiers of 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) troubleshoot a training system at the field site near Fort Stewart, Georgia on Oct. 27, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Cameron Arndt, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Moonlight shines through a transceiver dish on the last night of the exercise near Fort Stewart, Georgia on Oct. 29, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Cameron Arndt, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Soldiers of 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) work on the antenna control unit of a satellite transmission near Fort Stewart, Georgia on Oct. 26, 2015. (Photo by Capt. Cameron Arndt, 63rd Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Fit to fight

Interagency Exercise

joining Soldiers and



civilians

*By 1st Lt. Kara Wilson,
50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)*

The 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) conducted an Interagency Communication Exercise Sept. 21 – 25, 2015 to enhance multi-branch and multi-agency interoperability skills.

Five Command Post Node teams were deployed to an urban training area on Fort Bragg, North Carolina where Soldiers established a Metropolitan Area Network support of emergency response personnel.

The exercise provided a valuable opportunity for realistic training in case of a local disaster requiring cooperation between Fort Bragg and the surrounding areas' first responders.

The unit's goal was to learn what systems are compatible between the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical assets of the 50th ESB and the commercial assets of the first responders and to understand the needs of the emergency agencies.

A few of the many agencies involved included: Fort Bragg and Fayetteville Fire Department, Cumberland County Emergency Management, Cisco and Raytheon.

"The ICE allowed us to train and hone our skills by supporting non-traditional military customers," said

A Soldier from 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) is loaded onto a litter by members of an urban search and rescue team during a training scenario at Fort Bragg, N.C., Sept. 23, 2015. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Allan Hunte, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

Fit to fight

“ I think as a way forward we need to incorporate multi-component training, working alongside Reserves and National Guard Soldiers. ”

-SSG Olevano

Staff Sgt. Matthew Olevano, a satellite communications system operator and maintainer. “It gave us the opportunity to think outside the box and evaluate all services we are capable of providing to the end user. I think as a way forward, we need to incorporate multi-component training, working alongside reserves and national guard Soldiers.”

The Metropolitan Area Network consisted of local access via commercial internet equipment with wireless capabilities and Local Area Network.

The commercial Internet equipment provided the link between the tactical network of the Command Post Nodes and the communication equipment of the emergency responders.

The teams then implemented a robust line of sight backbone utilizing Harris RF-7800W High-Capacity Line of Sight radios for network redundancy between the emergency responders’ forward and rear bases of operations. That redundancy lowered latency between nodes.

A large training focus of the exercise was the utilization of the Harris HCLOS radios as this was the first time the unit installed and operated the radios during a field problem.

On the first day of training, one team was selected to break links, pack up and stage at the rear base of operations were they received a scenario with the first responders.

The team then reacted on cue to deploy over to the urban area and reestablish connectivity. The team was able to establish communication within the standard allotted time of two hours.

In addition to training on their assigned assemblages, Soldiers also participated in emergency rescue operations conducted by urban search and rescue teams. Soldiers were placed in training scenarios where they were faced with an injury that left them immobile at various locations within the urban training site.

The emergency responders worked with trained canines to locate the Soldiers, then assessed their injuries and provided medical attention and evacuated the injured Soldier from the site.

This simulated injured civilians in urban terrain during a local disaster.

“The Soldiers really liked helping the fire fighters with their training. It was also nice to get to learn the commercial equipment,” said Sgt. Madison Parkison, a senior transmission systems operator and maintainer. ■



Soldiers of 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) and local emergency responders prepare for scenario-based training with the search and rescue canines. This training was to prepare the emergency responders in case of a local disaster. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Allan Hunte, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

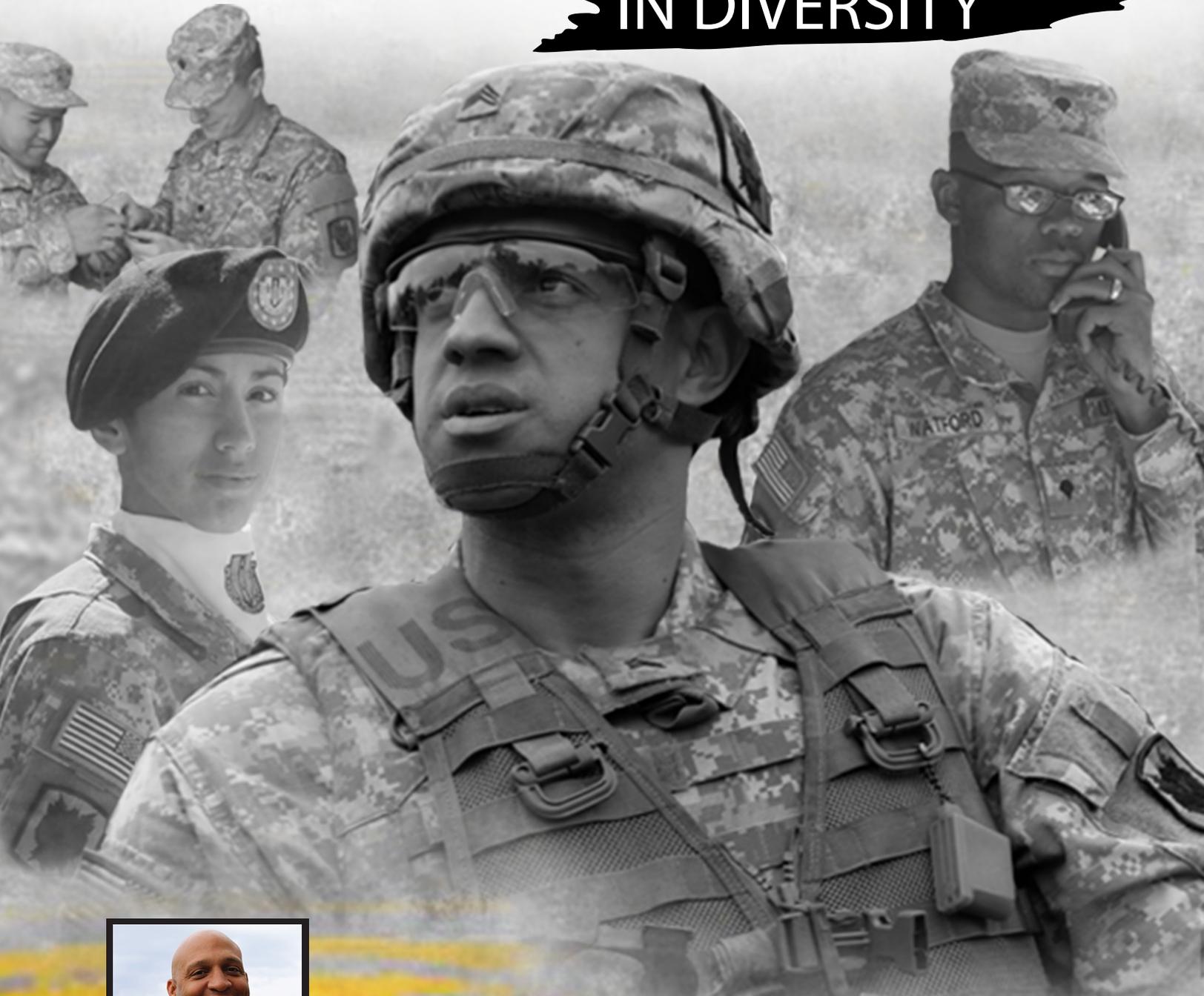


Col. Charles Daly, brigade commander, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) left, and Command Sgt. Maj. William Jordan, brigade command sergeant major, 35th TTSB, discuss the Interagency Agency Exercise with Staff Sgt. Matthew Olevano, right, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary). (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Allan Hunte, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



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67th ESB

BEST TEAMS

DISTINGUISHED THROUGH BATTALION COMPETITION

By 1st Lt. Jessica A. Garcia,
67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)

Three days, 10 teams, and only one team could walk away with the title best small switch, best large switch or best cable team.

The 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) hosted a competition amongst all the companies to find the best team in the battalion for each assemblage type at Fort Gordon, Georgia, Sept. 29, 2015–Oct. 1, 2015.

Each assemblage type spent a day competing against each other with a set of standards and a time limit.

“It is important to test our teams when they are out by themselves with no help from battalion staff and it adds a little more stress to the teams when they know they are representing their company,” said Lt. Col. Reginald Bryant, battalion commander for 67th ESB at the start of the event. “We haven’t done a battalion best team competition since I’ve been in command, and I’m excited to see how everyone does.”

The pressure was on, as each team strived to represent their companies to the best of their ability and to take home the title.

The only up front information the teams were given was a checklist and the time standards.

As each team was checked in the motor pool for their uniform and equipment readiness, they were given grid coordinates and line of site technical data to complete the

A C Company cable team climbs a pole during the 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) best team competition at Fort Gordon, Ga. Oct. 1, 2015. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Garcia, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



mission.

The large switch teams were up first, starting with the C Company team followed by the B Company and A Company. Once on site all three teams immediately conducted site selection and got to work. By the end of each team's execution every team member was soaked in sweat.

"This was great training. When we compete against the other companies, it makes us want to work that much harder to represent as a team and for our company," said Sgt. Wilson Samiano, the A Co. large switch team chief.

Samiano's team of eight personnel beat out both teams from B and C Companies by a margin of nine points and had the overall faster time. The small switches went on day two, and after talking to their company teammates who went on the first day they were better prepared for what was to come. All three teams put forth their best effort, however one team stood out as the clear winner.

The A Co. team led by Sgt. Braycen Lorenzo emerged on top.

A 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) Satellite Transmission Terminal team competes to be the best, at Fort Gordon, Ga., Sept. 30, 2015. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Garcia, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))

"When we compete against the other companies, it makes us want to work that much harder to represent as a team and for our company."

-SGT Samiano

Not only did they make the least amount of errors, but also beat the next team in time by over 15 minutes.

When A Co. Commander, Capt. Michael Gillett received the news that both of his switches won his only response was "Gator Don't Play!"

The last day comprised of the cable team competition between 4 companies including the 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company.

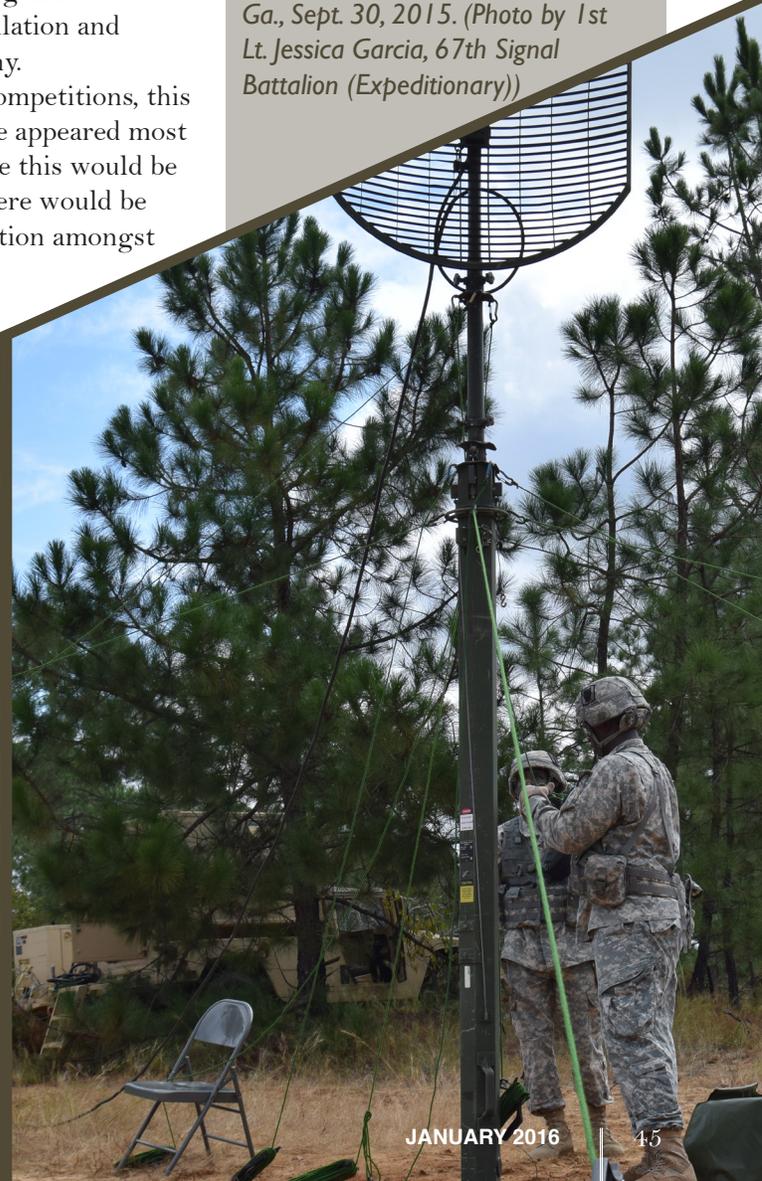
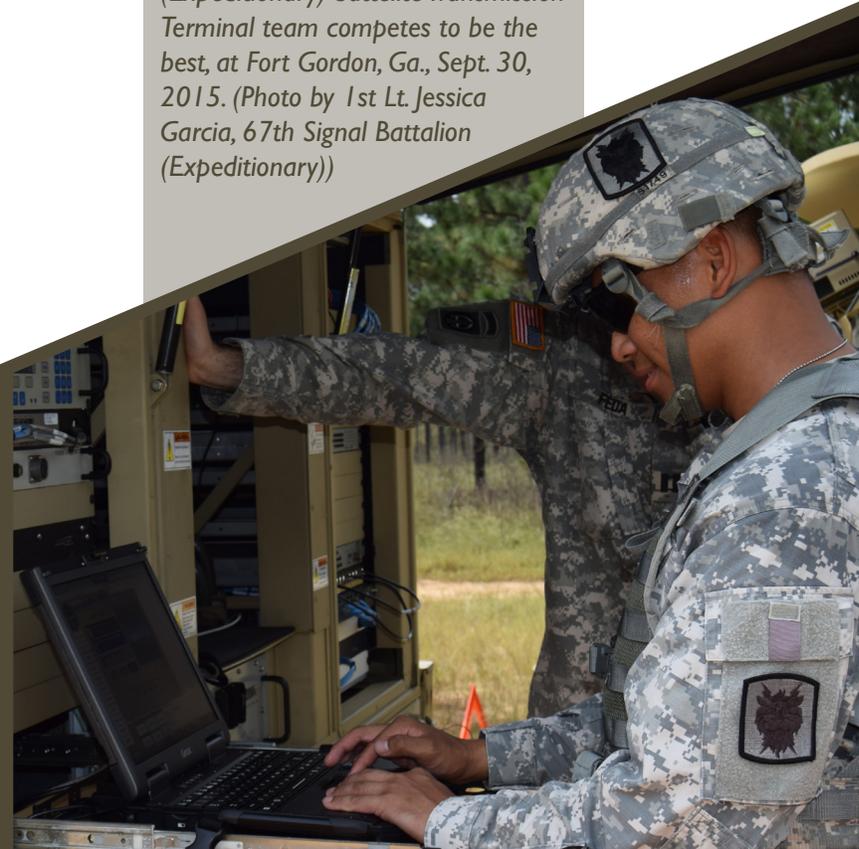
Out of all three competitions, this was the one everyone appeared most excited about because this would be the first time that there would be that type of competition amongst

the companies.

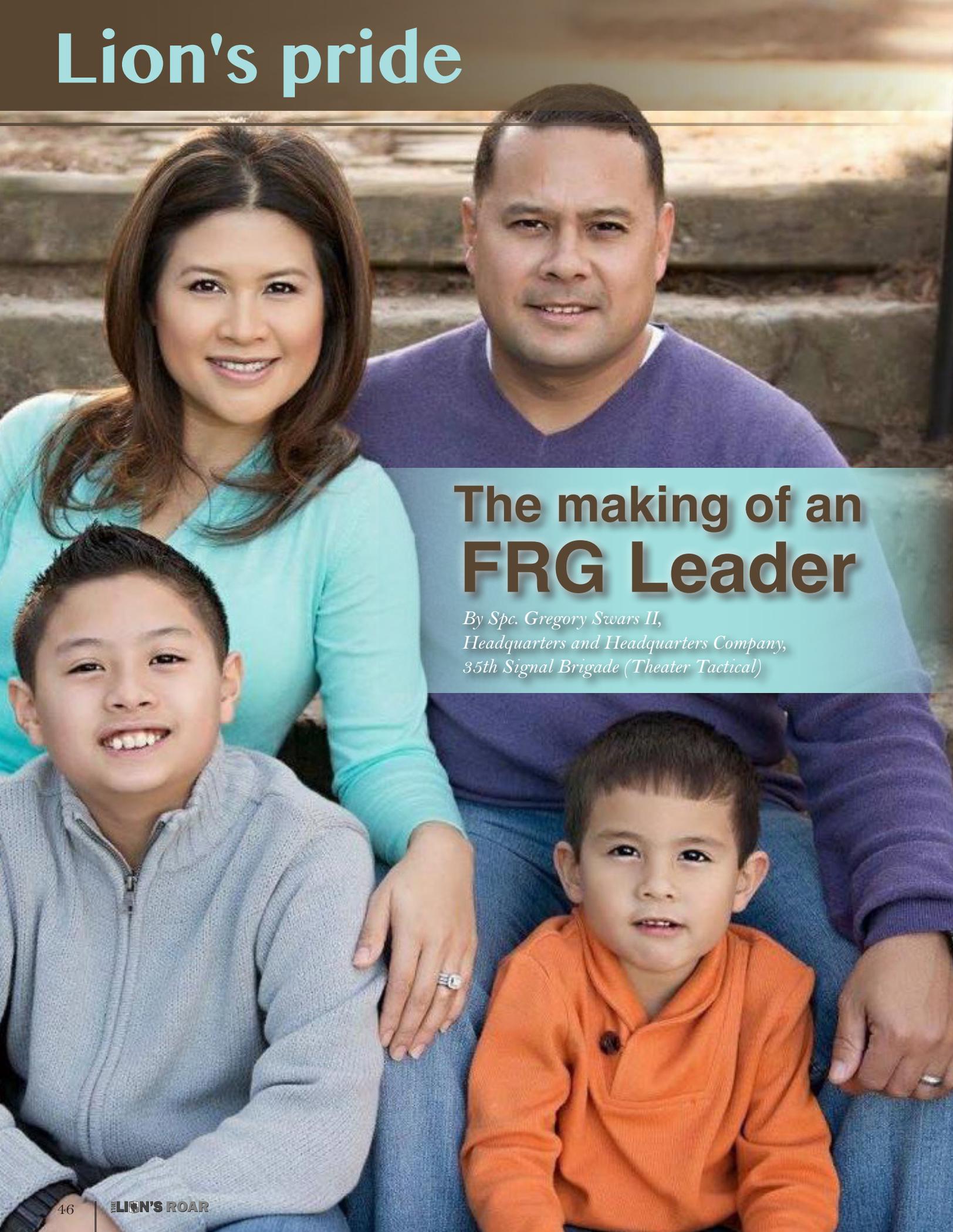
The competition consisted of three areas; install cable wire systems, conduct fusion splicing and a knowledge based test. All four teams came out swinging, making the competition a close one. The cable team for C Co. ended up on top by five points to take home the title.

"My team and I were prepared and trained for the competition. We conducted pole-climbing drills along with cable ties, which greatly helped us win the competition," said Sgt. Rahquwan Brooks, C Co. cable team chief. "Overall, this was a great event that brought out a higher level of competition from each of the companies."

A 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) team sets up a 15-meter mast during a battalion best team competition at Fort Gordon, Ga., Sept. 30, 2015. (Photo by 1st Lt. Jessica Garcia, 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary))



Lion's pride



The making of an FRG Leader

*By Spc. Gregory Swars II,
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical)*



Volunteers with the Family Readiness Group of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) serve food at a ceremony to farewell Soldiers of HHC deploying to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve at Fort Gordon, Ga., May 29, 2015. (Courtesy photo)

The role of family readiness group leader can come with a lot of expectation and responsibility with often no other reward than the satisfaction of making a difference.

However, the personal gratification alone was enough reason for Mrs. Christine Doughty to volunteer as the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) Family Readiness Group Leader, a job she says she's proudly held since August 2014.

"I get satisfaction hearing from other members that we, as an FRG, did something right.

I believe that makes it worth it," said Doughty.

Doughty is the wife of Capt. Robert L. Doughty, who served as the brigade's officer in charge of the 35th TTSB protection cell and who was selected to serve as the HHC commander starting March 2015. She has been

a military spouse for 12 years.

"It has its challenges, but I do enjoy the interactions with other spouses and volunteers and the camaraderie I have with them. We have an amazing group of volunteers, advisors, and we have a command team that fully supports the program," said Doughty.

According to the Army Family Readiness Group Handbook FRG is defined as, "...a concept that had early roots among Army families, who banded together during war or tours overseas or other isolated locations, to provide information, moral support, and social outlets to their members. The Army focused

sharply on family readiness as a result of lessons learned during the 1990-91 Gulf War."

"The FRG is a commander's program and my role as a leader is more of liaison between family members and the commander," Doughty said.

"I get satisfaction hearing from other members that we, as an FRG, did something right."

-Mrs. Doughty

Lion's pride

As the leader of the program, Doughty is responsible for managing the company's program through meetings and activities. She must also understand and meet the commander's readiness goals, improve the program at every opportunity, keep Soldiers and families informed, and encourage participation of all Soldiers and their family members.

"We always include the deployed family members in our information chain and try our best to keep deployed family members informed and involved," said Doughty.

The FRG is a way for service member's families to get involved with the unit.

Most importantly, when the unit's Soldiers are deployed it allows the family members to meet other family members of the unit's deployed Soldiers to help and support each other, as well as stay in contact with their deployed Soldiers while they are away.

"Mrs. Doughty is such a great leader because she is always willing to lend a helping hand for FRG, the unit and everyone who needs it," said Carol Leonguerro,

a volunteer with the HHC FRG. "She goes above and beyond when there is something she can do to assist families whether it's through meal preparations, getting information to the family members via Facebook or assisting in putting together events for our organization. She is always enthusiastic about new ideas to help our unit."

Leonguerro added that the qualities that make Doughty such a quality leader include her dedication, determination, and selfless desire to help.

"We are always trying to make changes to better our FRG program and will only seek to build off past years successes," said Doughty.

Doughty is also a mother of two boys and attends Augusta Tech as a full time student.

In her leisure time she enjoys volunteering, shopping, decorating, making arts and crafts, reading and decorating.

"As challenging as it may be sometimes, it's something I think I could make a difference in," said Doughty. ■



ABOVE: Volunteers with the Family Readiness Group of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) raise funds by wrapping presents at Fort Gordon, Ga., Dec. 9, 2015. (Courtesy photo)



RIGHT: Mrs. Christine Doughty, leader of the Family Readiness Group for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Signal Brigade (Theater Tactical) cuts a cake during the company's organizational day at Points West, Ga. July, 24, 2015. (Courtesy photo)



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



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CH (Maj.) Kelly Porter (706) 791-5163

50 ESB

CH (Capt.)

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Unit Ministry Team positions across the brigade are full for the first time in six months. Chaplain (Capt.) John Hoos is our newest member, having arrived to 67th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) from Fort Hood in January 2016. Chaplain Hoos fills a position that had been empty since early last summer. I've also recently arrived as your brigade chaplain. Although the battalions are scattered across the country, your UMTs are united to provide the best religious support to you and your family.

The UMT is distinctly religious in nature and provides staff advice to commanders and performs religious services to all our Soldiers, family members and Department of the Army Civilians. Our two primary activities are leading worship services and counseling Soldiers and families. We're glad to discuss your religious beliefs and talk with you about making the best life decisions based on those beliefs. To the left are the names and contact numbers of your UMT.

Congratulations to Chaplain (Capt.) Drew Billingsley, 63rd ESB, for being selected to participate in a Department of the Army Strategic Broadening Seminar at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The seminar is a five week experience in which officers across the force examine key strategic issues and develop skills for future assignments. These opportunities are rare for chaplains so congratulate Chaplain Billingsley when you see him.



TIPS FOR Changing a flat tire



Go the distance:

By 2nd Lt. Katherine Linman and Spc. Travonne Marshall-Ball, 50th Signal Battalion (Expeditionary)



1 MOVE TO SAFETY — Pull over to the side of the road a safe distance, roughly 10 feet, away from traffic. Turn your hazard lights on and mark your vehicle with warning triangles or flares, if possible. These are especially helpful at night. If you are unable to safely change the tire, call for assistance. Most insurance companies have support lines. If you are changing a tire at night, ensure you have proper lighting, if necessary, use the flashlight on your phone.

2 PREPARE TO CHANGE A TIRE — Place your vehicle in park, turn off the ignition and engage the emergency brake. Locate your vehicle's manual to help assist you while changing the tire. Remove the spare tire and all tools to help you change the tire. Most vehicles come with a jack and a lug wrench with a socket on one end.



3 REMOVE THE FLAT TIRE — Place the jack under the vehicle on a metal piece of the frame. Vehicle manuals typically have a picture showing where to place the jack depending on which tire you are replacing. Do not place the jack on plastic. Loosen the lug nuts slightly before raising the jack. Raise the jack until the tire is completely off the ground. Fully remove the lug nuts and place in a secure location where you will not lose them. Remove the flat tire from the wheel hub and place to the side for now. Under no circumstances place your body under the vehicle while it is raised on the jack.

4 PLACE THE SPARE TIRE ON THE VEHICLE — Locate the spare tire and place it on the wheel hub. Hand tighten the lug nuts in a star pattern, then use the lug wrench to secure the lug nuts snugly, but not tight. Slowly lower the jack until the tire is touching the ground but isn't bearing the full weight then tighten the lug nuts completely. Lower the jack until the weight of the vehicle is completely off the jack and remove the jack. To ensure the lug nuts are secure, tighten them once more. Place all tools and the flat tire back into the vehicle.

5 CHECK THE VEHICLE BEFORE LEAVING — It is important to check the air pressure of the spare tire regularly, but also prior to departing. If the spare is a temporary tire, known as a "donut," check your manual to see speed restrictions. Typically, vehicles should stay under 55 mph when driving with a donut. A temporary tire should only be used to get you to a location where you can purchase another tire, roughly 60 miles.





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